

## AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1 through 42 (canceled)

43. (currently amended) A pyrotechnic flare pellet assembly for providing at least one of visual and infrared energy output comprising:

a plurality of ignitable pyrotechnic flare pellets arranged in a stack;  
a means for joining said stack of said plurality of pellets whereby said stack remains joined upon ejection from a flare launcher;  
each of said plurality of pellets having tapered edges whereby the center of each of said plurality of pellets is thicker than the edges of the pellet; and  
a plurality of tapered grooves defined between said tapered edges of said pellets, said plurality of tapered grooves axially aligned with a vertical axis of said stack and disposed about the circumference of said stack.

44. (previously added) The pyrotechnic flare pellet assembly of Claim 43 further comprising:  
said means is a rod that extends through said pellet assembly.

45. (previously added) The pyrotechnic flare pellet assembly of Claim 44 further comprising:  
said means is an adhesive intermediate to said rod and said pellets.

46. (previously added) The pyrotechnic flare pellet assembly of Claim 44 further comprising:  
said means is an adhesive intermediate to said pellets.

47. (previously added) The pyrotechnic flare pellet assembly of Claim 45 further comprising:  
said means is a wrap disposed about said stack of pellets.

48. (previously added) The pyrotechnic flare pellet assembly of Claim 43 further comprising:  
said plurality of pellets are disk shaped.

49. (previously added) The pyrotechnic flare pellet assembly of Claim 43 further comprising:  
said plurality of pellets are shaped in the form of a frustum.
50. (previously added) The pyrotechnic flare pellet assembly of Claim 43 further comprising:  
each of said plurality of tapered grooves having an interior angle of between about 5°  
and about 35°.
51. (previously added) The pyrotechnic flare pellet assembly of Claim 43 further comprising:  
said plurality of pellets are substantially identical in size and design.
52. (previously added) The pyrotechnic flare pellet assembly of Claim 43 further comprising:  
said plurality of pellets are bi-convex disks.